GUIDE TO THE NM7 DELAWARE FILE

[The NM7 Delaware file is concerned with the Delaware tribe of Amerindians who lived in eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey during the Colonial period of American history. Groups of Delaware Indians are now also found in Canada and principally in Oklahoma. The file has considerable time depth, the earliest source (8: Lindeström) dating from 1655 with the latest materials dating to the 1950's. The sources in the file also relate to different locations, with sources 2, 4, 6-7, and 9-11 dealing with the Oklahoma Delaware, sources 4, 6 and 7 also containing information on the Canadian Delaware, and sources 1-3, 5, 8-10, and 12-14 dealing with the Delaware in general and the Eastern Delaware in particular.

There are 15 sources in the NM7 Delaware file, all of them in English. The major sources are 1: Heckewelder, a missionary ethnography published in 1819 based on thirty years' of work with the Delaware; 2: Newcomb, by a professional anthropologist, which examines the acculturation of the Delaware over a span of three centuries; 3: Zeisberger, a missionary ethnography based on work during the years 1767-1780; 4: Tantaquidgeon, by a Mohegan anthropologist who analyzes Delaware medical practices; 6: Harrington, a study of Oklahoma Delaware religion and ceremonial by an anthropologist; 7: Speck, a description of Delaware feasts, ceremonies and dances by an anthropologist who worked in Oklahoma; and 10: Speck, a study of the Big House Ceremony. The closest thing to an introductory source is 5: Herman, a reconstruction of Delaware culture from historical sources.

The researcher be aware of the problems of time and cultural focus as noted above and select his materials accordingly. The Delaware file contains a good deal of information on most aspects of culture and is suitable for cross-cultural research purposes. The file was processed between 1961 and 1963.]